

“A Turkish Rug of Marble”

(In the Great Hall of Honor in Montreal Canada’s City Hall, ca. 1926)

Stone, Stone Publishing Company

Vol. XLVII, No. 4, April 1926, pp. 229.

The article begins:

“Slabs of stone, rough of surface, irregular in shape and fitted together in the crudest possible manner, formed the first floors in the huts and hovels of civilized man. In the centuries that have elapsed since these early builders erected shelters from the elements for themselves and places in which to store their food stuffs, skins and other personal property, man has neither devised, nor Nature supplied a better material than stone for floors....”

“The earliest examples of mosaic and tessellated stone work are encountered in Asia. In the Bible (Esther I) reference is made to the pavement of red, blue, white and black in the palace of the King of Persia. The Persians and the Assyrians were highly proficient in this class of work...The Greeks learned the art in and in turn gave it to the Romans...Prehistoric Americans in Mexico and in this country ornamented their temples with beautiful, even wonderful mosaics and designs....”

“...That the ancient art is being revived, however, is evidenced in the pavements recently laid in the reconstructed city hall at Montreal, Canada. Here the architects were permitted to give the Hall of Honor a pavement of marble that resembles in its every detail a great Turkish Rug....”

This article, which begins on the next page,
is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/>

Peggy B. Perazzo

Email: pbperazzo@comcast.net

July 2016

A Turkish Rug of Marble

SLABS of stone, rough of surface, irregular in shape and fitted together in the crudest possible manner, formed the first floors in the huts and hovels of civilized man. In the centuries that have elapsed since these early builders erected shelters from the elements for themselves and places in which to store their food stuffs, skins and other personal property, man has neither devised, nor Nature supplied a better material than stone for floors. In some parts of the world, even now, the same rough stone slabs of prehistoric times are being used, as they were then and for the same purposes. But with the accumulation of riches by individuals and the extension of territorial domain by nations splendor and magnificence have replaced crude workmanship in designing and laying floors of stone, and by stone we refer to all of the non-metallic minerals capable of being cut and carved and of sufficient hardness and density to withstand the wear of multitudes of feet pacing over them.

The earliest examples of mosaic and tessellated stone work are encountered in Asia. In the Bible (Esther I) reference is made to the pavement of red, blue, white and black in the palace of the King of Persia. The Persians and the Assyrians were highly proficient in this class of work and examples found by students of the art show them to have exceeded all other nations in the magnificence of their designs and the profusion of their work. The Greeks learned the art and in turn gave it to the Romans, who made their interior palace and residential pavements as beautiful as their marble walls. Prehistoric Americans in Mexico and in this country ornamented their temples with beautiful, even wonderful, mosaics, the designs showing a marked resemblance to those of Persia and Greece. Notable among the pavements is that in the Cathedral of Siena, in which there are also divided panels of stone pictures of inlaid marble.

Modern builders long have contented themselves with rather common designs for their interior pavements of marble, the designs being confined to squares with or without borders and the colors varying to conform to the wall decorations. That the ancient art is being revived, however, is evidenced in the pavements

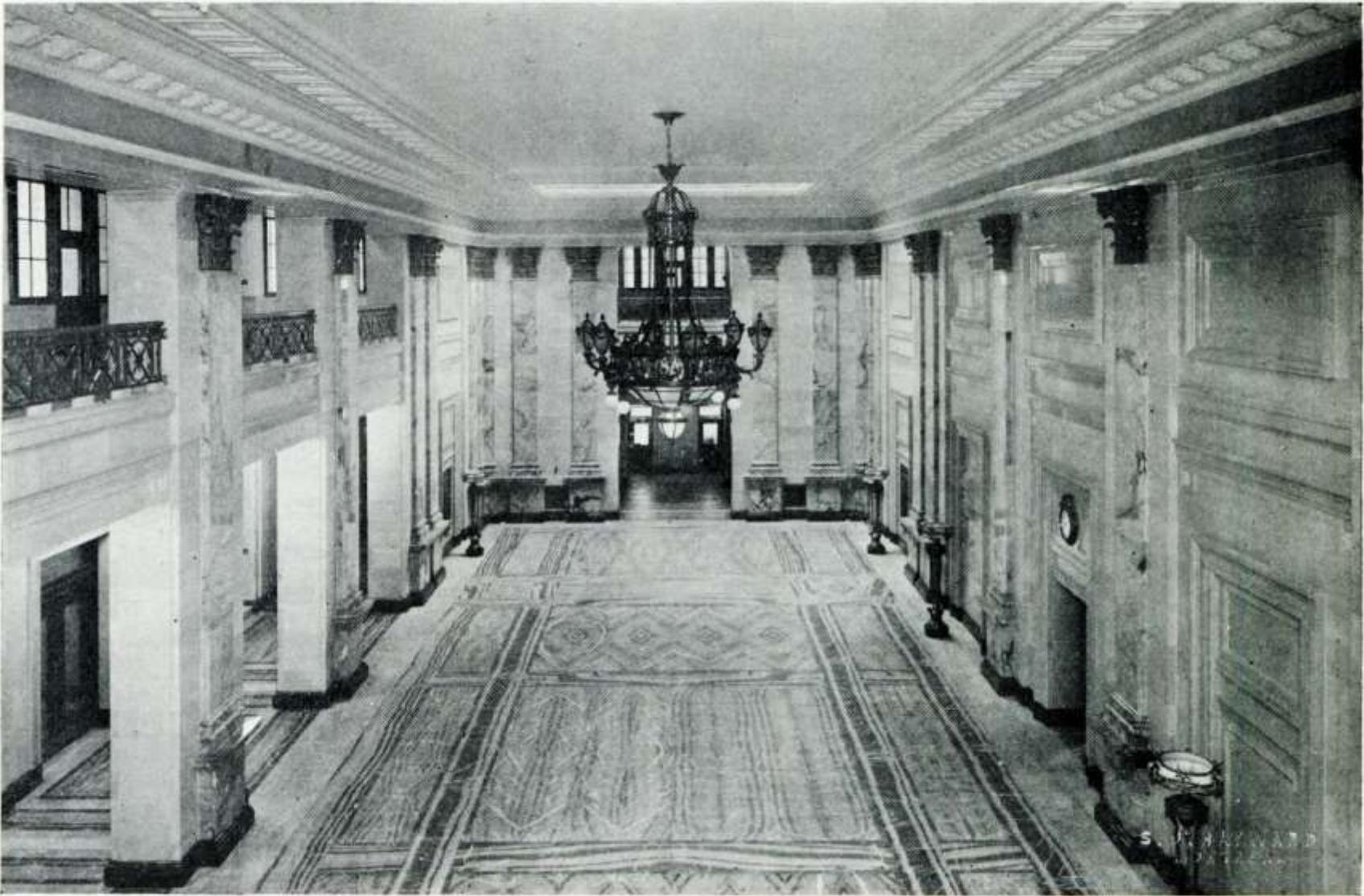
but recently laid in the reconstructed city hall at Montreal, Canada. Here the architects were permitted to give the Hall of Honor a pavement of marble that resembles in its every detail a great Turkish Rug. This hall is 106 feet long by 44 feet wide and 32 feet high and is entirely of marble. The walls are of Granite d'Or with twenty-eight pilasters of Escalette with gilded Corinthian capitals with a freize of Granite d'Or. Around the room is a base of Black and Gold Marble. The floor pavement in Turkish Rug design was made from perfectly matched and shaped tiles of French Campan marbles, Campan Melange, Campan Rubane, Campan Rouge and Campan Vert being used. These marbles for the floor, the Granite d'Or and the Campan marbles for the staircase in the Entrance Hall were furnished by the Tompkins-Kiel Marble Company. The Italian Tavernelle Claire, the Roseal Tennessee Marble for the floors and dado of the Long Room, the Black and Gold and other decorative marbles were furnished by the John J. Deery Company, Ltd., Montreal. The Turkish Rug pavement in the Hall of Honor so resembles a textile mat of large proportions as to give the large room the appearance of being so carpeted. The rug design has been so faithfully executed, even to details of curvature and inequalities of pattern lines due to the usual stretching of a real rug on a polished floor. This rug was made in the plant of the Wallace Sandstone Quarries, Ltd., Phillipsburg, P. Q. marble contractors.

Marble has been used extensively in the finishing of the Long Room, or general administrative hall. Here the floors and Dado are of Italian Tavernelle Claire with bases around the room and counters of Tennessee Roseal. The long counter is of Granite



Floor Pavement of Turkish Rug Design in the Great Hall of Honor in Montreal's Reconstructed City Hall. This entire hall is finished in marble.

(photo caption) "Floor pavement of Turkish rug design in the Great Hall of Honor in Montreal's reconstructed city hall. This entire hall is finished in marble."



Floor Pavement of Turkish Rug Design in the Great Hall of Honor in Montreal's Re-Constructed City Hall. This entire hall is finished in marble.

(photo caption) "Floor pavement of Turkish rug design in the Great Hall of Honor in Montreal's reconstructed city hall. This entire hall is finished in marble."